

MIDTERM 2006

Political Science 106 Introduction to International Relations

This exam consists of three sections. The first section asks you to identify some core concepts. The second provides “Hot Quotes” where you are asked to identify and locate an author in International Relations. The third is the Essay. As promised in class, there’s a bonus question worth two points at the very end.

ID’s

The following are concepts that were developed in the lectures, readings, or sections. In *at most* five sentences identify the concept, give an example and briefly explain the significance of the concept. Pick only two! Each of the ID’s is worth 10 points. (Roughly 5 Minutes total.) **Remember 5 sentences tops!**

1. Fungibility
2. Bipolarity
3. Security dilemma
4. Third Image
5. Anarchy
6. Regimes
7. Realism
8. Balance of power

Hot quotes

These are “hot quotes” from the readings. Please choose one and identify in one paragraph the author, what the quote means and where the author would be positioned on our mental map of International Relations, 20 points, (Roughly 5 minutes).

1. “Great powers, I argue, are always searching for opportunities to gain power over their rivals, with hegemony as their final goal. This perspective does not allow for status quo powers, except for the unusual state that achieves preponderance. Instead, the system is populated with great powers that have revisionist intentions at their core.”
2. “Soft co-optive power is just as important as hard command power. If a state can make its power seem legitimate in the eyes of others, it will encounter less resistance to its wishes. If its culture and ideology are attractive, others will more willingly follow. If it can establish international norms consistent with its society, it is less likely to have to change. If it can support institutions that make other states wish to channel or limit their activities in ways the dominant state prefers, it may be spared the costly exercise of coercive or hard power.”
3. “The argument of this study is that the relationship between economics and politics, at least in the modern world, is a reciprocal one. On the one hand, politics largely determines the framework of economic activity and channels it in directions intended to serve the interests of dominant groups; the exercise of power in all its form is a major determinant of the the nature of an economic system. On the other hand, the economic process itself tends to redistribute power and wealth; it transforms the power relationships among groups. This in turn leads to a transformation of the political system, thereby giving rise to a new structure of economic relationships. Thus the dynamics of international relations in the modern world is largely a function of the reciprocal interaction between economics and politics.”
4. “Another approach starts with the central approach of the security dilemma—that an increase in one state’s security decreases the security of others—and examines the conditions under which this proposition holds. Two crucial variables are involved: whether defensive weapons and policies can be distinguished from offensive ones, and whether the defense or the offense has the advantage.”

Essay

In this third section you are asked to write an essay, worth a total of 60 points. (Roughly 40 minutes)

Assume the following were true: **It has just been reported that Iran is only two years away from developing a nuclear bomb.**

Imagine you are working for a *foreign* embassy. Your task is to **write a memo explaining to your home country what actions the US will take toward Iran and the**

likely international repercussions of those actions. You have spent a great deal of time analyzing US newspapers, UN speeches and Congressional hearings, and the policy statements made by key US actors and have encountered a wide array of predictions and explanations. The result is a jumble of information that is not very helpful.

To streamline your thinking, your boss asks you to answer the following three questions:

1. Group the predictions of US actions by the level of analysis of research used to make that prediction. (Image 1, 1.5, 2, and 3).
2. Which level offers the best predictive capability and why?
3. What will be the international repercussions of that US action and which levels of analysis are most helpful for understanding these repercussions?

BONUS QUESTION worth 2 points:

Among all current political leaders in the world, who is the worst and why?

Good Luck!